

Claim 7 (original). A linker molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nanoparticle binding group forms covalent bonds with surface ligands on the nanoparticle or displaces existing surface ligands on the nanoparticle, or combinations thereof.

Claim 8 (original). A linker molecule according to claim 1 or 7, wherein the nanoparticle binding group comprises at least one covalent bond forming functional group selected from carboxylic acids and derivatives thereof, sulfonic acids and derivatives thereof, amines, alcohols, thiols, aldehydes, ketones, isocyanates, isothiocyanates, ethers, and halides.

Claim 9 (original). A linker molecule according to claim 1 or 7, wherein the nanoparticle binding group comprises at least one metal-binding group selected from amines, phosphines, thiols, disulfides, dithiocarbamates, dithiophosphates, dithiophosphonates, thioethers, thiosulfates, and thioureas.

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Claims 10-30 (cancelled)

REMARKS

In the Office Action under reply, restriction was required as follows:

Group I claims 1-9, directed to what the Examiner characterizes as linker molecules;

Group II claims 10-22, directed to a method of manufacture of a nanoparticle conjugate and the conjugate made by that method;

Group III claims 23-29, directed to a method for the manufacture of a nanowire and a nanowire or circuit, network, or junction containing the nanowire; and

Group IV claims 30, directed to a method of metallisation of a nucleic acid.

The Examiner also was of the view that the claims of Group II and the claims of Group III are subject to a requirement for an election of species.

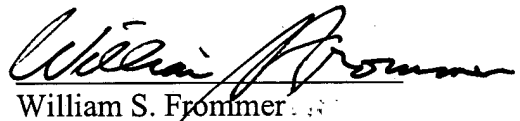
Without commenting on the accuracy of the Examiner's characterization of the subject matter of the respective groups of claims, Applicants elect, **without traverse**, Group I claims 1-9 for further prosecution in the present application. To simplify the prosecution of this application, non-elected claims 10-30 are cancelled.

Applicants reserve their right to file one or more divisional applications to re-present the nonelected claims.

An early examination on the merits of the elected claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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